

# Week of November 12, 2017

## MONDAY

Wis 1:1-7 \* Ps 139:1-10 \* Lk 17:1-6

## TUESDAY 8:00am Word & Communion

Wis 2:23-3:9 \* Ps 34:2-3,16-19 \* Lk 17:7-10

## WEDNESDAY 8:00am Mass

Wis 6:1-11 \* Ps 82:3-4,6-7 \* Lk 17:11-19

## THURSDAY 8:00am Mass

Wis 7:22-8:1 \* Ps 119:89-91,130,135,175 \* Lk 17:20-25

## FRIDAY 9:00am School Mass

Wis 13:1-9 \* Ps 19:2-5 \* Lk 17:26-37

## SATURDAY 4:30pm Mass

Wis 18:14-16; 19:6-9 \* Ps 105:2-3,36-37,42-43 \* Lk 18:1-8

## SUNDAY 9:30am Mass

### RITE OF WELCOME

Children's Liturgy of the Word & Nursery

Prv 31:10-13,19-20,30-31 \* Ps 128:1-5 \* 1 Thes 5:1-6 \* Mt 25:14-30

\*All events take place at St. Gabriel East Campus unless otherwise noted.



## Parish Activities

Mon., Nov. 13	6:15pm	Religious Education
	6:15pm	Adult Education
Tues., Nov. 14	10:00am	Scripture Study
	6:30pm	RCIA
	6:30pm	Choir Practice
Wed., Nov. 15	10:00am	Parish Knitters
Thurs., Nov. 16	6:00pm	PTO Meeting
	7:00pm	School Committee Meeting
Fri, Nov. 17	10:00am	Bulk Mailing Stuffing
Sun., Nov. 19	6:00pm	Youth Ministry

### RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS ( R.C.I.A.)

**RITE OF ACCEPTANCE:** Next weekend we will be celebrating the Rite of Acceptance with Chris Krueger. Since September, Chris has been attending inquiry sessions. This period of preparation has given him time to respond to the stirrings within to seek out life with Christ in this community of Catholic Christians. Chris is now ready to publicly declare his intention to continue his journey of faith toward full membership in the Catholic Church. This rite marks the beginning of his next stage of initiation as a catechumen preparing for baptism, confirmation and Eucharist. From this time on we embrace him as our own. Coffee and donuts will be served after Mass to offer you the opportunity to welcome him.

**GIVING TREES:** Each year the Christian Service Commission selects local assisted living homes and shelters that we can bless at Christmas. They create tags for each individual living in these homes, put them on Christmas trees in the church hallway, and allow parishioners to take a tag, purchase a gift and return it to church so the volunteers can deliver them. This year we have the opportunity to bless residents at Auburn Heights Senior Care, Plainview Assisted Living, Rose Gate Adult Foster Care, Auburn Fields Assisted Living and Toni & Trish House all in Auburn, Mustard Seed Shelter (Saginaw), Emmaus House (Saginaw), Bay Area Women's Shelter (Bay City), and our own homebound parishioners. Trees will be up Nov. 18/19 (next weekend) and Nov. 25/26. Please consider taking a tag and spreading the joy of the Christmas message!

*We are not getting older,  
we are just getting closer to home.*

**Small Group Scripture Session for Advent:** You are invited to attend a 4-week Small Group Scripture Session for Advent starting Sun., Nov. 26, 6:30-8pm at the parish center. Advanced registration is helpful. Use the sign-up sheets located at the church entrances and Café kiosk; call the parish office at 662-6861; or email Connie Kaczynski at [adulted@auburnac.org](mailto:adulted@auburnac.org).

**Advent Morning of Reflection:** A Season of Hope, Gratitude, Hospitality, Harmony and Home with Nancy Rivet. This morning of reflection hosted by Adult formation and the Education Commission will be held at St. Gabriel, Sat., Dec. 2, 9:30-11:30am. As we begin a new liturgical year, all are welcome to come ponder and prepare for this holy season of Advent. A time of remembering that Christ is the light of the world, and a time of joyful expectation! In addition to the presentation, the morning will include an opportunity for prayer, reflection, sharing and hospitality. Advanced registration is required and appreciated. Sign-up sheets will be available at the entrances of the church and Café Kiosk; call the parish office at 662-6861; or email Connie Kaczynski at [adulted@auburnac.org](mailto:adulted@auburnac.org). **Please register by Tues., Nov. 28.**

## Stewardship

**Weekly Target: \$11,538.47 \* Offering: \$13,022.00**  
**Campaign for Human Dev: \$115.00 \* Food Pantry: \$600.00**  
**World Mission Sunday: \$50.00 Christmas Flowers: \$1,317.00**

## Education/Formation

**FAMILY TALK TIME** Celebrating Sunday for Catholic Families, Sara McGinnis Lee  
Why is it good to be prepared? What are some things that need more of your attention?

► **Reflecting on the Word:** As we get closer to Advent the readings seek to awaken us. Jesus makes it clear that the joys of heaven are not a given but nor do we have to earn them. Rather, we have to be ready and present. The gift is already given but we need to be prepared to receive it. Attentiveness brings us to live more fully in each moment instead of focusing on the past or the future. Nothing is a given and not even the past is static as our experiences are constantly changed by our present interactions.

► **Living the Word:** Light a candle in your prayer space and discuss the preparation needed for a trip out of town. Encourage the children to think of all the things that are done when leaving home even for a weekend. Then, ask each family member to think about how they would prepare to see God. Ask: What preparation is needed to go to heaven? How are you preparing for that now? Is there anything else you should do? How will Advent help you prepare to see God some day?

## Auburn Area Catholic School

► **The AACs playground** has had the timber border replaced with plastic timbers from KJP. We thank KJP, the Columbian Club and the Deshano Foundation for making this possible.

► **AACS has Saginaw Spirit Ticket Vouchers** available in the school office. If you would like any, please call 662-6431, or stop by the school office during regular hours, M-F, 8am-4pm.

► **The 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders** researched a Saint for the month of November. Their reports are hanging on their lockers. Please stop by and take a look!

► Mark your calendar: **AACS Christmas Program** will be Tues., Dec. 19 at 6:30pm. We hope to see you there!

# From Father Tom's Desk

## 32<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sr. Mary McGlone, [Celebration](#)

Jesus had said that wisdom consists in putting his words into practice. The wise young women's oil symbolized their store of experience of living the Gospel. Their discipleship prepared them to enjoy the party that was to come. Living the Gospel is not like hoarding oil or packing a backpack. It's more like riding a bike, learning a new language or being generous. You practice until it comes naturally. For the foolish to beg "lend us some of your oil of preparation" was as absurd as saying "Give me a bit of your balance so I can ride this bike." There are some things each person must do for her or himself and no amount of example from others can make up for their lack of action.

That brings us to the second questionable part of the parable. Why wouldn't the groom allow them in? For the simple fact that they weren't there for the party that was going on. Like the guy who showed up at the wedding feast without a festive garment, they didn't belong.

Some people tend to interpret this parable to show how many foolish people will be locked out of God's reign. That contradicts the way Jesus talked and acted. Jesus was all about opening the doors and getting everyone to enjoy the party. The caveat is that it is God's party that we're invited to enjoy – with absolutely everyone who cares enough to participate. The only requirement for admission is to hear the invitation and act like we want to be a part of it.

### On Wisdom

[Celebration](#)

Our selection comes from the conclusion of the first part of the book of Wisdom and is an exhortation to seek wisdom for all the good she offers those who love her. The author's particular concern was to help Jewish people appreciate the wisdom of their tradition as they adjusted to being in the midst of the Greek culture. Thus, the book can serve to guide any believers who seek to reframe their faith as cultures change.

Both the Book of Wisdom and Deuteronomy suggest that Wisdom is a personification of God's own Spirit reaching out and dwelling within us. This is the Spirit who hastens to make herself known, who is readily perceived and who will not disappoint. Deuteronomy states specifically what the Book of Wisdom will make explicit later: The purpose of wisdom is to lead one to act aright.

Following Solomon's lead, we understand that Wisdom leads to integrity. Wisdom is easily perceived because all the world can recognize people who act with integrity, those whose actions transform their dogmas into concrete behavior. The person who has sought the ways of God stands out in the crowd.

The search for Wisdom offers a trajectory for life, a reciprocal and ongoing exchange with God. A person may seek Wisdom and Wisdom seeks people who are worthy of her. Each person must keep vigil, always growing, but Wisdom waits eagerly for every seeker. For those who seek, Wisdom is at the gate, at the door, always ready to accompany her lovers in whatever will come their way. Wisdom will lead us through the changing times.

### Paul on Grieving

[Celebration](#)

Paul's key phrase regarding how a Christian or Christian community approaches death is his desire that they "may not grieve like the rest, who have no hope." That assumes that people will grieve the death of a loved one, but that Christians will do it in a way marked by their faith. Grieve, yes, says Paul, but grieve like Christians. Grieve like those who ache for union with their loved ones in the heart of God. Grieve

like those who are longing for the Parousia – the day of Christ, when all will be caught up together in joy. Let your grief, like everything else in your life, be an expression of your faith and an opportunity to grow in it.

### End Time Parables

[Celebration](#)

The parables that come toward the end of Matthew's Gospel are all calling us to look at our heart. The parable of the wise and foolish virgins asks us about our commitment for the long haul. Are we like the five who went to the house with just enough oil to check out what was happening? They were there for the entertainment, like people who knew about the bride and groom but who didn't have a significant attachment to them or the celebration. In contrast, the wise young women had been saving up for this occasion. They went early and planned to stay late. The wise ones had been practicing for this party. Nothing could dampen their enthusiasm. If the groom was late, that didn't matter; they knew he would come. In both their waking and their dreaming, they were ready.

### Prepared or Not?

Deacon Dick Folger, [Celebration](#)

If you have a 401(k) retirement plan, you're like one of the five wise virgins who planned ahead and brought extra oil. You're like the loving mother who says: "Better bring a jacket, just in case." Like a good boy scout, you are always prepared.

Unfortunately, many of us identify with the other half of the groom's welcoming party. We are unprepared. We frequently find ourselves a day late and a dollar short. At a time when all of us least expect it, our death will come. Today's Gospel is a friendly reminder from Jesus that we still have time to prepare ourselves for the most important event we will ever face.

### Lighting the Way

Joe Walker, [Celebration](#)

The key to understanding this parable is in the metaphor of the oil for the lamp. The oil represents the good that we do in the world. With every kind word, compassionate gesture, and selfless act offered in Christ's name, we are lighting the way for the bridegroom. Today's parable calls to mind Jesus' earlier announcement to the disciples, "You are the light of the world... your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father."

The wise virgins represent disciples who see every moment as a potential opportunity to be light in the world and act accordingly. This helps us understand why the wise virgins could not simply share their oil with the foolish ones. Each of us is gifted with unique opportunities to express God's love in the world. Each of us must choose to respond to the call to serve in Christ's name. As we hear Jesus' message, we reflect on the unique opportunities we have to fill our flask with good works. We can be thankful for those blessed experiences of loving service that help us to be well-prepared for Christ's triumphant return.

**“Lord, may my light  
shine for others.”**

**AMEN CORNER:** The Building Committee and Planning Group have been meeting frequently. This week they will be finalizing a drawing of what is proposed. It is now time to inform the parish of the results of their deliberations. Soon the drawings will be on display for the Parish members to see. An 8"x11" handout explaining the contents of the drawing will be available.

Fr. Tom